

His Majestie's
DECLARATION
To His City of
LONDON.

Upon occasion of the late Ca-
lamity by the lamentable

F I R E.



LONDON,
Printed by *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker* Printers to
the KING'S most Excellent Majesty, 1666.

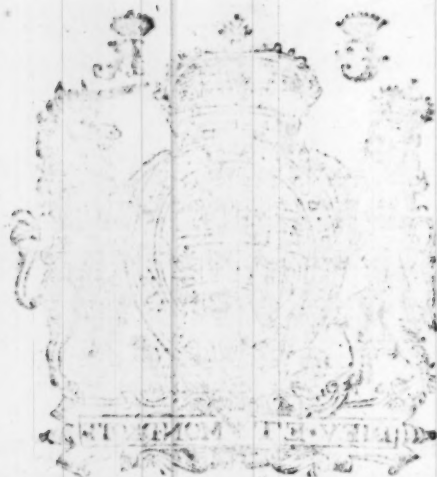
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His Majesty's
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To His Majesty
LONDON

Upon occasion of the late
Henry 4th the first

H. I. R. E.



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HIS MAJESTIE'S DECLARATION

TO
His City of LONDON,

Upon occasion of the late Calamity by the
lamentable FIRE.

CHARLES R.



S no particular Man hath sustained any loss or damage by the late terrible and deplorable Fire in his Fortune or Estate, in any degree to be compared with the loss and damage We Our Self have sustained, so it is not possible for any Man to take the same more to heart, And to be more concerned and solicitous for the rebuilding this Famous City, with as much expedition as is possible: And since it hath pleased God to lay this heavy Judgment,

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upon

upon Us all in this time, as an evidence of his displeasure for Our sins, We do comfort Our Self with some hope, that he wil upon Our due humiliation before Him, as a new instance of his signal blessing upon Us, give Us life, not only to see the foundations laid, but the buildings finished, of a much more beautiful City then is at this time consumed; and that as the seat and situation of it is the most convenient and noble, for the advancement of Trade, of any City in *Europe*; so that such care wil be taken for the re-edification of it, both for use and beauty, and such provision made for the future, against the ordinary and casual accidents by Fire, as may as far as humane wisdom can provide, upon the sad experience We have had, reasonably secure the same, and make it rather appear to the world as purged with the Fire (in how lamentable a manner soever) to a wonderful beauty and comeliness; then consumed by it; and We receive no small encouragement in this Our hope by the alacrity and chearfulness We observe in those who have undergone the greatest loss, and seem the most undone; who with undaunted Courage appear to desire the same We do, and resolved to contribute their utmost assistance thereunto. We have therefore thought fit, most necessary and agreeable to the great and constant affection We have alwayes had, and
alwayes

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always shal retain for this Our Native City,
to use this expedition in publishing Our
Thoughts, Resolutions, and Intentions upon
this great affair, that though such present Rules
and Directions cannot be formed, as must upon
more mature deliberation be established for the
re-edification. Yet such inconveniences may and
shal be prevented, which may arise by the hasty
and unskilful buildings many may propose to
erect for their present conveniencies, before they
can know how the same wil sure and consist
with the design that shal be made; And if this
candour of Ours, which resolves with the bles-
sing of God so to provide for the just right and
interest of all, that no man shal have cause to
complain of wrong and oppression; And if
this Our seasonable animadversion shal not
meet with that prudent submission we expect,
but that some obstinate and refractory persons
wil presume to erect such Buildings as they shal
think fit, upon pretence that the Ground is
their own, and that they may do with it what
they please, such their obstinacy shal not pre-
vaile to the publick prejudice; but We do
hereby require the Lord Mayor and the other
Magistrates of the City of London in their seve-
ral limits, to be very watchful in such cases, and
speedily to put down whatsoever such men
shal presume to set up, so much to the distur-
bance

banke of Publick Order and decency, and that
they forthwith give notice to us or Our Privy
Council of such their Proceedings, and we will
the names of such refractory persons who pro-
fume to contemn this Our Injunction, and
We shall give order for their exemplary pun-
ishment without the violation of the Publick
Justice.

And because no man shall complain or ap-
prehend that by this caution or restraint of
Ours, they shall or may for a long time be kept
from providing Habitations for themselves, and
for the carrying on their Trades, though We
make no question, but in a short time, with the
assistance and advice of the Lord Mayor and
Court of Aldermen (who have besought us for
some time to put this restraint) to finish the
whole design, even before any men can make
provision of materials for any valuable Edifi-
ces. We do declare, that if any considerable
number of men (for it is impossible to comply
with the humour of every particular man) shall
address themselves to the Court of Aldermen, &
manifest to them in what places their Ground
lies, upon which they design to build, they shall
in a short time receive such order and direction,
for their proceeding therein, that they shall have
no cause to complain; and so We proceed to
the setting down such general to which all par-
ticu-

ticular designs must conform themselves.
 - In the first place the woful experience of this
 late heavy visitation hath sufficiently convinced
 all men of the pernicious consequences which
 have attended the building with Timber, and
 even with Stone itself, and the notable benefit
 of Brick, which in so many places hath resisted
 and even extinguished the Fire. And we do
 therefore hereby declare Our express Will and
 Pleasure, That no man whatsoever shall pre-
 sume to erect any House or Building, great or
 small, but of Brick or Stone, and if any man
 shall do the contrary, the next Magistrate that
 forthwith cause it to be pulled down, and such
 further course shall be taken for his punishment
 as he deserves; And We suppose that the
 notable benefit many men have received from
 those Cellars which have been well and strongly
 ly arched, will perswade most men who build
 good Houses, to practice that good husbandry
 by Arching all convenient places.
 We do declare, That Fleetstreet, Cheapside,
 Cornhill, and all other eminent and notorious
 Streets, shall be of such a breadth, as may with
 Gods blessings prevent the mischief that one
 side may suffer if the other be on fire, which
 was the case lately in Cheapside, the precise
 breadth of which several Streets shall be upon
 advice with the Lord Mayor and Aldermen

thertly publish'd, with many other particular
 Orders and Rules, which cannot yet be ad just-
 ed; in the mean time We resolve though all
 Streets cannot be of equal breadth, yet none
 shal be so narrow as to make the passage un-
 easie or inconvenient, especially towards the
 Water side; nor wil we suffer any Lanes or
 Allyes to be created; but where upon mature
 deliberation the same shal be found absolutely
 necessary, except such places shal be set aside
 which shal be designed onely for buildings of
 that kind, and from whence no publick mischief
 may probably arise.

The irreparable damage and loss by the late
 Fire, being next to the hand of God in the terri-
 ble Wind, to be imputed to the place in which
 it first brake out, amongst small Timber houses
 standing so close together, that as no remedy
 could be applyed from the River for the
 quenching thereof, to the contiguousness of the
 Buildings hindering and keeping all possible
 relief from the Land side, We do resolve and
 declare, That there shal be a fair Key or Wharf
 on all the River side, that no house shal be
 erected within so many foot of the River, as
 shal be within few daies declared in the Rules
 formerly mentioned; nor shal there be in those
 Buildings which shal be erected next the Ri-
 ver, which We desire may be fair Structures,
 for

for the ornament of the City, by which the
inhabited by Butchers, Dyers, Fishmongers, Bakers,
which Trades by their continual smoke con-
tributed very much to the unhealthiness of the
adjacent places, but We require the Lord Mayor
and Aldermen to be upon a full considera-
tion, and weighing all conveniences and inconve-
niences that can be foreseen, to propose such La-
places may be fit for all those Trades which
are carried on by sundry to inhabit together, or
at least severall places for the several quarters of
the Town for those occupations, and in which
they shall find their accommodation, convenience
and profit, as well as other places shall receive the
benefit in the distance of the neighbourhood, it
being Our purpose that they who exercise those
necessary professions, shall be in all respects as well
provided for, and encouraged (as ever they
have been), and undergo as little prejudice as
may be by being less inconvenient to their
Neighbours. *triguo ad existimari as conque*
These grounds and foundations being laid;
from the substance whereof we shall not depart,
and which being published are sufficient assu-
rances to prevent any mans running away
bringing an inconvenience upon himself by a
precipitate engagement in any Act which may
cross these foundations. We have in order to
the reducing this great and glorious design into
practise,

professing, and directed to the Mayor, Aldermen,
 and the Common Council of the City of London
 do with all possible expedition, cause to be made
 a Survey and estimate of all the houses, streets,
 lanes, alleys, and other places, and of the whole
 value thereof, by the said Mayor, Aldermen, and
 Common Council, or by their deputies, and to
 the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council, All the
 Houses and Grounds which shall be found, what
 Tithe the several occupiers were possessed of, &
 what other Rents, and the whom, either Corpo-
 rations, Companies, or single persons, the Rents
 and Heriots and appurtenances thereof, pro-
 vision may be made, that though every man
 must not be suffered to erect what Buildings
 and where he pleases, that that he in any degree
 be restrained from receiving any unreasonable
 profit of what ought to accrue to him from his
 Houses or Lands, there being nothing else in
 our thoughts, than that any particular per-
 sons right and interest should be sacrificed to
 the publick benefit or convenience, without such
 recompence as in justice he ought to receive for
 the same. And when all things of this kind
 shall be prepared and adjusted by such Com-
 missioners, and otherwise, which shall be found
 expedient, We make no doubt but such an
 Act of Parliament will pass, as shall secure all men
 in what they shall and ought to possess.
 By the time that this Survey shall be taken,
 We shall cause a Plot or Model to be made
 for

for the whole building through those ruined
 places, which being well examined by all those
 persons who have most concernment as well
 as experience, We make no question but all men
 will be well pleased with it, and very willingly
 conform to those Orders and Rules which shall
 be agreed for the pursuing thereof.
 In the mean time we do heartily recom-
 mend it to the charity and magnanimity of all
 well disposed persons, and we do heartily pray
 unto Almighty God that he wil infuse it into
 the hearts of Men speedily to endeavour by
 degrees to re-edifie some of those many
 Churches which in this lamentable Fire have
 been burned down and defaced, that so men
 may have those publick places of Gods Wor-
 ship to resort to, to humble themselves together
 before Him upon this His heavy displeasure,
 and join in their devotion for His future Mercy
 and Blessing upon Us, and as soon as We shall
 be informed of any readiness to begin such a
 good Work, We shall not only give Our assi-
 stance and direction for the model of it, and
 freeing it from buildings at too near a distance,
 but shall encourage it by Our Own bounty and
 all other wayes We shall be desired.

Lastly, that We may encourage men by
 Our Own example, We will use all the expedi-
 tion We can to re-build Our Custome-House

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in the place where it formerly stood, and enlarge it with the most conveniences for the Merchants that can be devised, and upon all the other Lands which belong unto Us We shall depart with any thing of Our Town right and benefit for the advancement of the publick service and beauty of the City, and that further remit to all those who shall erect any buildings according to this Declaration all duties arising to Us upon the Hearth money for the space of seven years.

Given at Our Court at White Hall the thirteenth day of September One thousand six hundred sixty and six in the Eighteenth year of Our Reign.

non We can to rebuild Our Customs-House
 Our ~~Over~~ ^{example} We will be at the expen-
 diture, that We may encourage men by
 all other ways We shall be desired.
 but shall encourage it by Our Own bounty and
 freeing it from ~~building~~ ^{building} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~cost~~ ^{near} a distance,
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 and Blessing upon Us, and as soon as We shall
 and join in their devotion for His future Mercy
 before Him upon this His heavy dispensation,
 ship to resort to, to humble themselves together

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